

Department of Urban and Regional Planning
School of Architecture and Planning
 PD 512

University at Buffalo
Fall 2009

Research Methods for Planning

Days & Times: Monday 2:30pm – 3:50pm, Thursday 1:00pm – 2:20pm
 Location: Monday Hayes 230, Thursday Hayes 201A
 Instructor: Robert Silverman
 Office: Hayes 201K
 Hours: Monday & Thursday 12:00pm - 1:00pm (and by appointment)
 Phone: (716) 829-2133 x227
 E-Mail: rms35@buffalo.edu

TA: Kexin Ma
 E-Mail: kexinma@buffalo.edu

The Course:

This course is designed to expose graduate students to research methods and quantitative analysis in planning. During the semester you will develop the skills needed to plan and organize sound research projects. You will be responsible for a number of assignments. Each is designed to build planning research skills. The semester goes by very quickly. Be diligent in your work and budget your time wisely. The required readings apply directly to the assignments. Be prepared to discuss and apply them in class. Late assignments will not be accepted.

The semester is divided into three parts. Each is intended to introduce you to issues central to research methods and quantitative analysis. The first part of the semester covers various types of research designs and ethics in research. The second part of the semester covers survey research and secondary data analysis. The last part of the semester covers quantitative techniques and inferential statistics.

The activities and requirements for the course are outlined in this syllabus. During each lecture we will discuss the relevant readings and assignments. During each lab we will apply our new skills to exercises and assignments.

If you have any questions during the semester, please bring them to your professor's attention or the TA's attention. Your professor will be available during his office hours and by appointment. Also, you may contact him by phone or e-mail.

Required Text, Reserve Readings:

The required books are available at the UB Medical Bookstore and the College Store

O'Sullivan, Elizabethann, Gary R. Rassel, and Maureen Berner. 2008. *Research Methods for Public Administrators*, Fifth Edition. New York, NY: Pearson Longman.

Wagner, William E. 2009. *Using SPSS for Social Statistics and Research Methods*, Second Edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press.

Required Reserve Readings are available on UBLeads and the S: Drive.

Course Requirements:

HRPP Training: Complete UB's online Human Research Protection Program (HRPP). This activity affects 5% of the final grade. This training module is located at the following websites: <http://www.research.buffalo.edu/rsp/education.cfm> at the link to <https://www.citiprogram.org/default.asp> . After completing the HRPP training program print out the screen that verifies you have completed this activity and turn it in at the beginning of class on September 10, 2009.

Descriptive Analysis Exercise: This assignment focuses on descriptive analysis using secondary datasets. The assignment affects 35% of the final grade. This assignment will be discussed in class on October 15, 2009. The assignment is due on October 26, 2009. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Significance Testing Exercise: This assignment focuses on significance tests using secondary datasets. The assignment affects 30% of the final grade. This assignment will be discussed in class on November 5, 2009. The assignment is due on November 16, 2009. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Regression Exercise: This assignment focuses on regression analysis using secondary datasets. The assignment affects 30% of the final grade. This assignment will be discussed in class on November 30, 2009. The assignment is due on December 10, 2009. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Grading Policy:

Your grade will be based on the following (100 points possible for the semester):

HRPP Training	5 points
Descriptive Analysis Exercise	40 points
Significance Testing Exercise	30 points
Regression Exercise	25 points

Grading Scale:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Total Points</u>
A	96-100
A-	90-95.99
B+	87-89.99
B	84-86.99
B-	80-83.99
C+	77-79.99
C	70-76.99
D	60-69.99
F	0-59.99

Academic Integrity:

Students are expected to approach the course with seriousness and integrity. It is important to complete assignments on time, attend class regularly, and foster a collegial learning environment. Plagiarism and other instances of academic misconduct will result in a failing grade on a respective assignment, exam, or paper. Students should refer to the *University at Buffalo Graduate Catalog* for clarification on the University's policies and procedures.

Accommodations for Disabilities:

If you have a disability (physical, learning, or psychological) that impacts your course work please contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), 25 Capen Hall, (716) 645-2608. ODS will provide you with information and review appropriate arrangements for reasonable accommodation (such as recruiting note-takers, readers, or extended time on assignments). You must bring requests for accommodations for a disability to the professor's attention within the first two weeks of class.

Writing Centers:

The University at Buffalo has a number of writing center where students can get assistance with essays, term papers, and thesis projects. Students should contact one of the following if they would like to access these campus resources:

- Graduate students can contact the Graduate Student Association (GSA) about their Editorial Assistance Program. For information about this program go to the GSA office in 310 Student Union, (716) 645-2960; <http://wings.buffalo.edu/gsa/services.html> ,
- International students can contact the English Language Institute. The English Language Institute is located at 320 Baldy Hall; (716) 645-2077; elibuffalo@buffalo.edu; <http://wings.buffalo.edu/gse/eli> .

SYLLABUS

DATE	MONDAY - LECTURES	THURSDAY - LABS
August 31 & September 3	Introduction to the Course	Ethics Read O'Sullivan Ch 8, 15 <i>Assignment:</i> HRPP Training Assigned
September 7 & September 10	NO CLASS – LABOR DAY	SPSS Overview Wagner Ch 1 HRPP Training Due
September 14 & September 17	The Research Process O'Sullivan Ch 1, 2, 3	Data Transformations Wagner Ch 2, 11
September 21 & September 24	Measurement and Sampling O'Sullivan Ch 4, 5	Sampling Wagner Ch 3
September 28 & October 1	NO CLASS – YOM KIPPUR	Charts and Graphs Wagner Ch 5, 10
October 5 & October 8	Descriptive Analysis O'Sullivan Ch 11	Frequency Distributions & Measures of Central Tendency Wagner Ch 4
October 12 & October 15	Secondary Data Sources O'Sullivan Ch 9	Secondary Data Sets <i>Assignment:</i> Descriptive Analysis Exercise Assigned
October 19 & October 22	Surveys and Questionnaires O'Sullivan Ch 6, 7	Secondary Data Sets, cont.
October 26 & October 29	Index Construction & T-Tests O'Sullivan Ch 10, 12 Descriptive Analysis Exercise Due	T-Tests Wagner Ch 8

DATE	MONDAY - LECTURES	THURSDAY - LABS
November 2 & November 5	Contingency Tables and Chi-Square O'Sullivan Ch 13	Cross-Tabs Wagner Ch 6 <i>Assignment:</i> Significance Testing Exercise Assigned
November 9 & November 12	Nominal & Ordinal Measures of Association O'Sullivan Ch 13	Measures of Association Wagner Ch 6
November 16 & November 19	ANOVA O'Sullivan Ch 13 Significance Testing Exercise Due	ANOVA Wagner Ch 9
November 23 & November 26	Regression O'Sullivan Ch 13	NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING
November 30 & December 3	Regression, cont. O'Sullivan Ch 13 <i>Assignment:</i> Regression Exercise Assigned	Regression Wagner Ch 6
December 7 & December 10	Regression, cont.	Regression Exercise Due